

# BREAKER

TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC NEWS AND VIEWS

South Island

Centenary Flight

Antarctic Journals

Private Views

Sub-Antarctic Focus

Environmental Changes



**PURDON &  
FEATHERSTONE**

(EST. 1853)

*Waterfront & Shipping Suppliers for over 150 years*

Ship Chandlers, Provedores and Contract Provision Suppliers to the

# Antarctic Sector

provisions

bonded stores

cabin stores

chemicals and oils

safety equipment

deck and engine stores

general ship supplies



Phone: 61 3 6224 2810 Fax: 61 3 6224 5900 email: [pandf@fader.com.au](mailto:pandf@fader.com.au)

HOBART 0700

WILKINS 1130

...that's plane sailing



**SKYTRADERS**

Prescriptive Aviation Solutions  
[www.skytraders.com.au](http://www.skytraders.com.au)



## Helicopter Resources PTY.LTD.

**With over twenty years of Antarctic Experience, Helicopter Resources has forged an enviable record in the service and support of Antarctic Operations.**

**Helicopter Resources is committed to safety, reliability and customer satisfaction.**

**Helicopter Resources - experts in the field of Antarctic Helicopter Support.**

Phone: 03 6248 5130

Fax: 03 6248 5342

PO Box 321 Rosny Tasmania 7018

Email: [helires@helicopterres.com.au](mailto:helires@helicopterres.com.au)  
[www.helicopterres.com.au](http://www.helicopterres.com.au)

While a blizzard rages outside...  
 why not snuggle down and read

*Save the Wishbone for Me*



*Monica Debnam*

One woman. Six children.  
 And an irrepressible spirit  
 that makes her story unforgettable.

\$35 + postage and handling  
[www.monicaдебman.com](http://www.monicaдебman.com)  
[monica.debnam1@bigpond.com](mailto:monica.debnam1@bigpond.com)

## P&O Maritime Services

## Specialist Shipping Services

**P&O Maritime Services**  
 is recognised as a  
 premier provider of  
 specialist shipping and  
 related logistic services  
 to defence, marine  
 science and  
 research,  
 mining and  
 government  
 sectors



GPO Box 88, Melbourne Vic 3001 Australia  
 Telephone +61 3 9254 1600 Facsimile +61 3 9254 1658  
[www.pomaritime.com](http://www.pomaritime.com) [manager@pomaritime.com](mailto:manager@pomaritime.com)





## editorial

As the Antarctic season winds down after a pre-season medivac, Australia's Airbus ferrying NZ expeditioners, delayed flights and rearranged shipping schedules, plans are well under way in Hobart for the 2nd Sub-Antarctic Forum in April and the Antarctic Midwinter Festival in June this year.

This edition features several personal accounts of Antarctic-related events in Hobart, over Antarctica, on the ice at Wilkins runway and at Mawson's Huts. IB is very privileged to receive these individual viewpoints, rather than just media reports.

Now that Ice Breaker is sent to every high school and college in Tasmania, I urge the Antarctic community to consider advertising their companies and organisations

so that students are made aware of job opportunities in the Antarctic sector. It is vital the next generation is encouraged maintain research already underway, or provide goods and services for that purpose.

The enclosed flyer about the Australasian Maritime Institute may be of interest to students and TPN members. As the Australian Maritime College is now focussing more on research, AMI is expanding from WA and developing training courses in other states, including Tasmania, so that students gain nationally recognised qualifications.

### Anthea Wallhead

Editor, Ice Breaker Magazine

## regulars

■ Michael Aird	6
■ Will Hodgman	7
■ Cassy O'Connor	8
■ Bill Lawson	9
■ Ben Galbraith	10
■ Tony Press	11

## features

■ Centenary Flight	12
■ Runway Journal	14
■ Cruising South	16
■ Mawson's Hut	17
■ Antarctic Spirit	19

## contents

Cover: Courtesy of Klaus Arne Pedersen

Back Page: Stamp covers supplied by Klaus Arne Pedersen.

## advertising

<b>Full Page</b>	210 W x 298 H
\$300, \$240 (b&w)	
<b>Half Page</b>	210 W x 149 H
\$220, \$176 (b&w)	
<b>Third Page</b>	210 W x 100 H
\$130, \$105 (b&w)	
<b>Quarter Page</b>	90 W x 140 H
<b>or Double Column</b>	120 W x 135 H
\$90, \$75 (b&w)	
<b>Single Column</b>	60 W x 135 H
\$80, \$65 (b&w)	
<b>Spot Advertisement</b>	60 W x 70 H
\$50, \$40 (b&w)	

All quoted Rates are for a single edition only and include GST. Discounts available for bulk bookings.

## subscriptions

Australia wide	\$35.00
International	\$45.00

(All prices AUD and inclusive of GST where applicable)

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of any group, organisation, or institution. ICE BREAKER is published in good faith and all contributors should ensure the truth of any facts stated.

ICE BREAKER magazine is published independently by Icewall One as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

Editor and Production  
Co-ordinator: Anthea Wallhead  
Visual editor: Robert Wallhead  
Research: Peter Wallhead

Comments and contributions for future editions are most welcome. Please address them to:

Editor, ICE BREAKER  
240 Watsons Rd, Kettering  
Australia, Tasmania, 7155  
Phone: 03 6267 4774  
Facsimile: 03 6267 4335  
anthea@icewall.com.au  
www.icewall.com.au/icebreakermagazine

ICE BREAKER Magazine Copyright 2008  
Icwall One and individual contributors



## Michael Aird

*The forum will help develop Tasmania's scientific capabilities...*

Antarctic Tasmania is organising the second International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic to be held at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in April. The first forum, held in 2006, marked a significant turning point in developing the view that the Sub-Antarctic be classified separate to the Antarctic due to its own unique circumpolar domain, scientific significance and environmental management issues. Key stakeholders including policy makers, environmentalists and scientists hailed the last forum a great success.

Given the heightened increase in global awareness on climate change and its importance for future policy makers, the 2009 forum focuses on 'Environmental Change in the Sub-Antarctic'. The presentations this year

will focus on atmosphere, water and land, and the interactions between these three elements.

International speakers from a number of nations including the UK, South Africa, New Zealand, and France will join local speakers to highlight the importance of protecting the Sub-Antarctic, and what a crucial role the region plays in identifying the effects of climate change. Speakers from locally based organisations such as CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the University of Tasmania will help to further establish Hobart's reputation as a centre of scientific excellence.

The forum will help develop Tasmania's scientific capabilities, and will also strengthen the State's reputation as an access point to the Southern Ocean. There are a number of organisations, both private and government, involved

in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic sector who benefit greatly from this niche industry.

Annually, this sector contributes approximately \$147 million to the Tasmanian economy. For a single sector to contribute on such a large scale and provide up to 800 jobs, it is vital that the State Government continues to support these events and maintain Hobart's positioning as a key gateway to the Southern Ocean.

For more information on the forum, please visit <http://www.sub-antarctic.org/ifsa2009.html> or contact Antarctic Tasmania on (03) 6233 5493.

### Michael Aird

Minister for Economic Development

## ice.edu

## Antarctic Birds in Autumn

### Adelie Penguin

**Height:** 70 cm  
**Flipper length:** 20-24 cm  
**Weight:** about 5 kg.  
**Lifespan:** at least 15-20 years

During March – May, adult birds are land-locked for 2-4 weeks while they moult all their feathers and grow new ones. Penguins cannot swim until the new feathers restore their insulation and waterproofing.



### South Polar Skua

**Length:** 530 mm  
**Wingspan:** up to 1.3m  
**Weight:** 0.9-1.5 kg  
**Lifespan:** about 20 years

Skuas leave their nesting areas in March and fly north to avoid the cold and food scarcity. Some fly beyond the pack ice to the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.



### Wandering Albatross

**Length:** up to 1.4m  
**Wingspan:** up to 3.4m  
**Weight:** up to 12 kg  
**Lifespan:** at least 40 years

Young birds hatched February – May stay on the nest all summer and are fed during their first winter. Their diet primarily consists of squid, cephalopods, small fish, and crustaceans.





## Will Hodgman

*...inertia in pro-actively exploring and progressing Hobart's Port capabilities...*

### Hobart Port

The second-deepest natural port in the world, the Hobart Port is a valuable and rare resource with a long and proud history of links with the Antarctic.

The Tasmanian Liberals do not want to see the Port compromised now or into the future by the Tasmanian Government's proposal to build the new Royal Hobart Hospital on the waterfront site, adjacent to the port, particularly when a major upgrade of the capabilities of the Hobart Port would significantly increase the likelihood of other nations using Hobart as their point of embarkation and disembarkation for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

According to both the Tasmanian Polar Network and Tasmanian Maritime Network, the building of a new hospital

on the proposed site would have an adverse impact on the future of the Hobart working port, the future of the Antarctic shipping industry and other important maritime activities.

While the Tasmanian Government has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars on their ill-conceived waterfront hospital proposal, it has shown inertia in pro-actively exploring and progressing Hobart's Port capabilities to encourage further international interest in Tasmania's wonderful potential as a leading Antarctic support and provision hub.

That is why the Tasmanian Liberals have recently unveiled our vision for a New Generation Royal Hobart Hospital that is fiscally responsible, increases capacity, delivers new state of the art hospital facilities and builds on the \$100 million investment at the current site over the past 20 years.

It also provides for a secure future for the Hobart Port, and waterfront, and paves the way for a strategic plan to make the Hobart CBD more vibrant, dynamic and prosperous.

### Whaling

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, had promised a tough stand against Japanese whaling and committed to taking Japan to the International Court of Justice to stop its whaling program. The results, or lack thereof, speak for themselves.

The Federal Government's actions to date have failed miserably to measure up to the rhetoric and in the absence of an official Australian presence in the Southern Ocean, it would seem that it has been left to anti-whaling activists such as those on board the Steve Irwin to harass and disrupt whalers and protect this iconic creature from unnecessary suffering.

Not only is the Federal Government missing in action, but it has been revealed that it has been caught holding secret talks with Japan on the re-introduction of commercial whaling, in what can only be described as a shocking betrayal of the Australian people.

### Macquarie Island

The time taken by the Tasmanian Government to deal with pests on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island is appalling and a terrible abrogation of its responsibility to this island that has been a part of Tasmania since 1825.

The Tasmanian Liberals have been an active supporter of funding a resolution to the destruction that is occurring to the world-heritage-listed Macquarie Island, and welcomes moves by the Tasmanian Government to begin to meet its responsibilities in the matter.

We welcome the preparation of a new joint State-Federal Government eradication program targeting rabbits, rats and mice, which will start in winter next year, and hope that it is the beginning of a larger, more holistic plan that will achieve greater long-term results and prove to be cost effective.

As we saw with the feral cat eradication program, which resulted in widespread devastation of the Island's ecosystem, ad-hoc funding and step-by-step programs, which give little consideration to long-term conservation are expensive and not appropriate in this situation.

### Will Hodgman

Leader of the Opposition

### Southern Giant Petrel

**Length:** 1m

**Wingspan:** up to 1.8m

**Weight:** up to 4.8 kg

**Lifespan:** 20 years

Petrels feed their single chicks on the nest with regurgitated fish, squid, penguin eggs, young birds and dead seals. After 41/2 months, a chick leaves the nest in May or June to fend for itself.





## Cassy O'Connor

*With the world's oceans tipping into a precarious state of imbalance...*

Sitting in a friend's garden in West Hobart one recent late afternoon, I was reminded once again that Hobart is as much a busy port as it is a vibrant city. Three long, deep booms of a departing ship's horn filled our airspace. It's such a lovely timeless sound. Our forebears would have heard it, and, if we look after and grow our port, our grandchildren will be lucky enough to hear it too, and imagine far off places, the Southern Ocean and wild Antarctica, as do we today.

Perhaps by then, the great whales of the Southern Ocean will have long been wholly respected and protected by all nations, and the valiant Sea Shepherd will be a much-loved museum exhibit. We live in hope ... Until the day comes, sadly we will need the Sea Shepherd to deliver the international conservation message to Japan in the Southern Ocean.

For a living, dynamic definition of 'hero', I wouldn't look much further than every member of the Sea Shepherd crew, none of whom I know personally,

but all of whom I admire enormously. I reckon it's a privilege to have such a gutsy vessel and crew visiting the Port of Hobart!

Shame on the whaling nations and, most pointedly, Japan, for pig-headedly persisting with the slaughter against all ethical, scientific and public concerns. And, shame on the Australian Government for not doing more to protect whales in the Southern Ocean. It's a fact that until more meaningful action is taken and until the whaling stops, it is a sanctuary in name only. Surely there is also a legitimate, more effective role for the Navy here? It's time serious pressure was applied to Japan to move with the times and out of a cruel, needless hunting practice.

With the world's oceans tipping into a precarious state of imbalance, chemically and ecologically, the Greens understand that sound science must be the primary decider of policy imperatives. Policies determined by short-term political considerations and trade relationships are bound to fail

our life support systems, and all the creatures therein.

Practices such as whaling, overfishing, the harvesting of krill, and dumping of rubbish at sea, place cumulative strain on the Southern Ocean ecosystem, already warming and acidifying as a result of climate change. It is the lack of understanding of ecological balance and biodiversity - apparently embedded in the dominant political framework at all levels of government in most parts of the world - that is most worrying. This is what dedicated scientists and researchers, far-sighted policy makers and the conservation movement are up against.

Transforming old, unsustainable ways of thinking and instilling a new respect for ecosystems among governments, and in the public mind - that is the challenge.

### Cassy O'Connor

Tasmanian Greens Spokesperson on Antarctic Affairs

## Antarctic Midwinter Festival 2009

The 9th Antarctic Midwinter Festival will be held in Hobart from the 19th to the 28th of June 2009. The popular festival celebrates the living and historical links between Tasmania and the Antarctic, with a rich program of scientific, educational and social events centred on the midwinter solstice.

While scientists and expeditioners overwintering at Australia's three continental stations mark the longest night of the year with the traditional dinner and entertainment, all Tasmanians will have an opportunity to join the Antarctic community for ten days

of festivities.

The Midwinter Festival includes the prestigious Phillip Law Lecture, given this year by Dr Denzil Miller, Executive Secretary of CCAMLR and recent winner of the World Wildlife Fund's Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal. Other events include the Longest Night Film Festival at the State Cinema, the Extreme Environment Photography Prize Exhibition and an expanded schools program for Tasmanian students interested in the Antarctic. The highlight of the Antarctic social calendar in Hobart is the annual TPN-Australian Red Cross

Midwinter Dinner on Saturday, June 27 at Wreast Point.

Festival Director Paul Cullen says the program will explore new ground while retaining the most popular public events. 'We are very enthusiastic about getting more Tasmanian school students in to see the exhibitions and films, and the science this year is just fascinating, with the conclusion of the International Polar Year and the Census of Antarctic Marine Life. But it wouldn't be a Midwinter Festival without the Huskies' Picnic and that's on again, too.'





## Bill Lawson

*...TPN enjoyed unprecedented access and information flow with AAD...*

In my last message I noted the sequence of details on the proposed new RHH on the waterfront saga from the TPN's point of view, 'for the record'. Again, 'for the record', whilst the threat has not been removed, it does seem to have been diminished due to a mix of public concerns (including ours), fiscal constraint and the passage of time. I hope by the time I next write this message that the matter will have been closed.

This summer season is now almost over and I trust that it has been successful for all despite the set-backs in getting the Casey Runway open due to the inability to get the necessary personnel into Casey arising from, as I understand it, a mix of heavy ice and the medivac at Mawson requiring the ship to be diverted.

I was recently invited to brief His Excellency the Governor on the TPN's roles and functions and am delighted to report that he has accepted my invitation to address the next meeting of the TPN on 6th March at CCAM-

LR's premises. I encourage all TPN members to make a special effort to attend this meeting and meet the Governor. We are fortunate to have a continuation of strong support from our State Governors as it provides both an endorsement and confirmation of our work. This is noted by many people, including other countries as potential stakeholders in using Tasmania as a southern base.

We keenly await further developments with the Russian Antarctic Expedition following the visit last year by the Russian Ambassador in response to our invitation to St Petersburg.

We are now planning a 'welcome back' function in March for the returning French Expeditioners en route back home to France. It will again be a cooperative effort with 'Alliance Française' and no doubt will continue the excellent relations and bonhomie between our two countries. I encourage all TPN members to attend if pos-

sible please – details of date, time and place will be circulated shortly.

Finally, I want to use this message to congratulate Dr Tony Press on his time and achievements as Director of AAD, a position he recently stepped down from to head up the ACE CRC. During his time at the helm of AAD, the TPN enjoyed unprecedented access and information flow with AAD. This occurred at a time of significant cultural change with the introduction of the Airlink and it made a lot of cooperative and mutually beneficial manoeuvres possible with the common objective of turning the Airlink dream into a reality. I believe Tony should feel justly proud of his achievements at AAD and extend the Network's congratulations and best wishes to him now.

### Bill Lawson

Chairman, TPN

Almost all events and exhibitions are free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of Festival sponsors and an enthusiastic band of Midwinter Festival volunteers. 'Some of our hardest-working volunteers will be coming into their tenth year of support.' Cullen says. 'I would love to offer them long-service leave, but I don't think they'd take it!' The Antarctic Midwinter Festival is organised and run by Antarctic Tasmania, part of the Tasmanian State Government's Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

### Climate Funding

The Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) and a consulting engineers company, Pitt and Sherry, recently received funding from Tasmania's State Government's Research Partnerships Program (RPP) for the Climate Futures for Tasmania – Infrastructure project. This project will develop a method of assessing the performance of infrastructure under different climate scenarios, to identify the risks and likely damages to Tasmania's largest assets.

Businesses interested in developing collaboration between their enterprise and research institutes should contact the Business Point Hotline on 1800 440 026.

### ACAP

In December 2008, Hobart became the official headquarters of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), due to the reputation of institutes and scientists already using Hobart as their base for Antarctic and Southern Ocean research and monitoring. Signatories to the Agreement are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain United Kingdom and Uruguay.

### New CEO

Brett Reiss replaces Wayne Tucker as the CEO of Hobart International Airport Pty Ltd (HIAPL).

### Polar News



## Ben Galbraith

*...the Antarctic tourism sector has been affected by the global downturn...*

**A**lthough many Antarctic nationals around the world are experiencing a significant economic downturn, and in many cases a recession, to date the Australian Antarctic sector is proving to be relatively resilient. Antarctic science programs are going ahead as planned and employment has remained stable. However, the Antarctic tourism sector has been affected by the global downturn and is likely to experience a continued decline during 2009-10 Austral summer.

Other Antarctic sector issues and activities include:

- The University Council of UTAS recently approved a plan to establish the Institute for Marine and Antarctic (IMAS). The new Institute, will draw together marine and Antarctic activities at UTAS into one key establishment.
- In April 2008, Antarctic Tasmania submitted a bid to host the COMNAP Secretariat for a third successive six-year term. An announcement on the next host country is expected in late April-early May 2009. To date, other proposals have been submitted by Christchurch, New Zealand; Punta Arenas, Chile; Hyderabad, India; and Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Planning has commenced on this year's Antarctic Midwinter Festival that will be held from 19-28 June 2009. The Festival Director, Paul Cullen, has started work on this year's program and the eighth Phillip Lecture will be delivered by Dr Denzil Miller, Executive Secretary of CCAMLR. Sponsorship and support for the Festival has been confirmed from the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN), Hobart City Council (HCC) and National Archives of Australia.
- The International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic: Environmental Change

in the Sub-Antarctic will be held in Hobart from 26-27 April 2009. The 2009 Forum follows on from the very successful 2006 Forum, which is considered to be the first forum that comprehensively developed the perception that the sub-Antarctic islands and surrounding seas should be viewed as a distinct circumpolar domain. See the following website for further information, including the Forum flyer, registration form and draft program at: [www.sub-antarctic.org](http://www.sub-antarctic.org).

- The Workshop on Measuring Climate Change Impacts in the Southern Ocean will be held at the CCAMLR headquarters in Hobart from 20-24 April 2009. The interdisciplinary workshop will focus on international collaboration, developing a Southern Ocean Sentinel Program, and actions to measure, assess and provide early-warning detection of climate change impacts on marine ecosystems and biodiversity. See the following website for further information visit the: <http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=35088>

or contact the Antarctic Australian Division or the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC.

- The United States will host the 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Baltimore, Maryland from 6-17 April 2009. The ATCM occurs as the Antarctic Treaty marks its 50th anniversary and coincides with the conclusion of International Polar Year, which focused on Antarctic and Arctic science from March 2008 to March 2009. The meeting will be attended by Antarctic program managers and logistics experts, polar scientists from 47 countries, including 28 Consultative Parties, representatives from other countries involved with the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and observers from several non-governmental organisations.

### Ben Galbraith

Director Antarctic Tasmania

## Polar News

### New VMEs

CCAMLR recently declared two Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the Southern Ocean and reduced seabird deaths from longline fishing to zero, but vast areas of the ocean are still unmonitored. An increase in signatories to the Agreement is hoped for, to further reduce threats to these special bird species.

### Fastest to the Pole

Three Canadians say they have set a new record for the fastest trek across Antarctica to the South Pole. The 1130 km journey from the Ronne Ice

Shelf took 33 days, 23 hours and 30 minutes, breaking the previous record by 6 days. Details are on [explorersweb.com](http://explorersweb.com)

### Cool Iron

A controversial experiment by German scientists was carried out in Sub-Antarctic waters recently. Iron sulphate powder was spread over hundreds of square kilometres to 'fertilise' the ocean and encourage algae bloom. If successful, this could help reduce global warming at little cost, however the ACE CRC says results and side effects on the marine environment are still unknown



## Tony Press

*The renewal bid builds on what the ACE CRC has told us about climate change...*

The Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre is in the throws of putting together an application to the Australian Government's Cooperative Research program for a further 5 years of funding. The current round of funding ceases in mid 2010, and late last year new guidelines were announced for CRC funds. Since then the ACE Board, the Program leaders and bid team, and staff at ACE have been feverishly working on a funding application.

We are looking at what Australia can do through ACE to fill the gaps in the

world's knowledge of climate change, the role of Antarctica in global change and the impacts of global change on the health of the Southern Ocean. So far we have had strong interest in a renewed CRC from researchers and institutions within Australia and many from overseas. The renewal bid builds on what the ACE CRC has told us about climate change, but, critically, it focuses on the big questions we need to know for the future: questions about the predicted extent and rate of global change and what we might expect to see over the next decades and centuries.

ACE researchers have also been busy preparing important position analyses: one on ice sheets (the ice that covers the Antarctic continent and much of Greenland) and on sea ice (ice that forms from sea water). Both play significant roles in the world's climate (and on Australian weather and climate). We've been to Canberra for some workshops with policy makers from across the public service, and it is hoped that these papers will be released publicly at Greenhouse 2009 in Perth in March.

ACE is also gearing up to begin presenting a series of Sea-Level Rise workshops around Australia. In June 2008, the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Climate Change & Water, announced a series of projects on climate change. One of these was ACE's 'Estimating Sea-level Rise in an Uncertain Future'. Since the announcement, ACE CRC has been bringing together its latest science in sea-level rise projections to create an interactive web-based tool that will provide information on projected changes in high sea level events for the Australian coastline. ACE will be presenting this information to organisations around Australia from February this year till June next.

I took up the reigns on 5 January 2009 and it's been fairly busy since then getting the structure of the renewed CRC settled and the scope of work described. I'm not sure I've had time to settle in yet, but I've been really enjoying this role and I look forward to working with the 'greater Antarctic community' in Tasmania for years to come. Wish us luck in our rebid!

**Tony Press**  
CEO ACE CRC



### Quilt and Pillow Manufacture and Rejuvenation Specialists

After a trip to the Antarctic or our own Tasmanian wilderness, your bedding needs special attention.

**Come to us for complete care.**

We wash and loft, rejuvenate and recase existing quilts, pillows and sleeping bags or manufacture new products according to your sleep and warmth preferences, and all climatic conditions.

We use all natural down and feather and miteproof 100% cotton japara casings to provide a product worthy of your investment, at affordable and competitive prices. Now situated in Kingston (behind the Kingston Hotel), we are a wholly Tasmanian owned and operated business.

Snuggle Down Inn Kingston  
Shop 2 Kingston Gateway Shopping Centre  
Phone 62 271790 or 0410220293

# Centenary Flight

Mother of five, Sue Halliwell, goes South again!

At approximately 1316 on the 17th of January 2009, 290 passengers and 23 crew on board Qantas Flight QF 2903, flew over South Magnetic Pole, Latitude 64 degrees 27 minutes South and Longitude 137 degrees 31 minutes East. This flight commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the first party comprising Australians Professor Edgeworth David and Douglas Mawson, and Scotsman Dr Alistair Forbes-Mackay, members of Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition 1907-09, who reached the South Magnetic Pole at approximately 1530 hrs 16th January 1909.

This historic flight was the Royal Society of Victoria's contribution to International Polar Year's activities, and with the Society's education, outreach and communication in all sciences fields being the thrust, 52 young science ambassadors from Australia, Canada, France, Finland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom came to Melbourne to participate in an excellent week-long program run by the RSV and its members. The students (photo: below) enjoyed the hospitality at Janet Clark Hall on the Melbourne University Campus and from here revelled in many incursions and excursions of which the South Magnetic Pole (SMP)

was the pinnacle.

The flight - well, that was something special. The first and last time I had been to Antarctica was in January 2006 on the Marina Svetava with Aurora Expeditions, and subsequently contracting 'Antarctitis' and being an RSV member, this provided an all too brief but nonetheless, magical 'fix'. Joining me were my two youngest children Shane (18) and Rachael (16) (photo: right), my sister and brother-in-law Judy and Rowland Jubb. (Have they been infected? Time will tell.) Our seats were right at the back of the plane but we were very lucky to be next to a wide space at the aisle end.

A number of esteemed guests were also on board including HRH the Duke of Gloucester and the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Krester FAA and RSV patron. Our Scientific Panel: - RSV SMP Project Team members-Project Chairman, Lieut. Col. Richard Lightfoot (Consultant Engineer, Glaciologist, and former AAD member for 9 yrs) Project Leader: David Dodd (ANARE member, Honorary fellow UoM and member of IPY 2007-8 Australian Education, Outreach and Communication Committee. The Scientific Panel included Dr Charles Barton (our geomagnetic expert), Dr Ian Allison (co-

chair of the IPY Joint Committee, who has studied ice and climate change for over 40 years, at present employed by AAD where he is leader of the Ice Ocean Atmosphere and Climate program), Emeritus Scientist Larry Newitt (former Head of the Geomagnetic Laboratory of Natural Resources Canada, the world's leading authority of the North Magnetic Pole, current research involves characterizing how



magnetic disturbances vary with time and location across Canada), Jean-Jacques Orgeul (France); Prof. Patrick Quilty (Honorary Research Professor in Earth Sciences, University of Tasmania), Peter Dawson (Meteorologist in the Qantas Integrated Operation Centre in Sydney, ANARE member with 4 expeditions to the Antarctic).

All the Scientific panel have vast experiences in their specialized fields in the Antarctic spanning many years and during the flight gave lectures to us all between Antarctic related DVD (in-flight movies were an AAD promo, Cold Blue Ice and The Ice Breaker, the story of Dr. Phillip Law). Other participants who made themselves available to talk to were David Poulson (electrician and former AAD employee) and Brett Free (photographer and former AAD employee).

As we boarded the QANTAS 747 for an 0840 departure, we were each given a 'show bag' containing maps,

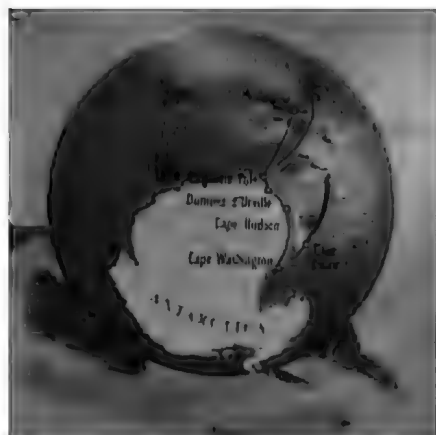




commemorative memorabilia, publications from the RSV, a special historic brochure on Sir Douglas Mawson and joint publications from the RSV and Australia Post including a commemorative stamp sheet and a small 'dip compass'. (I did bring my own prismatic compass).

In-flight refreshments, ice-creams when over the ice, a chat between Capt. Davis and Peter Boyer ([www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au)) at Mawson's Hut, Commonwealth Bay (shame it was a poor transmission from Mawson's hut end), iceberg spying and photographing, lectures and autograph hunting all enjoyed before Captain Davis announced that we were nearing the South Magnetic Pole ( $64^{\circ} 27'S$ ,  $137^{\circ} 31'E$ ) so to be seated and position our 'Dip Compass' vertically and also to watch our individual TV screens of the scientists using their larger magnetic observational equipment. We were at 2,000 m above land and sea level when over the ice.

The countdown to the SMP began and exclamations of delight came from all on board when over the south magnetic pole and our dip compass needles pointed vertical and our prismatic compass needles circled 360 degrees for a very short time. This exercise was repeated and again we all marvelled at the wonder of science. And again we reflected on the courage and sacrifices of these three intrepid



explorers to gain this scientific achievement. Compasses stowed away and it was time to be delighted, inspired, awestruck and over whelmed by the sight of the Antarctic Continent, brilliant white against a beautiful mid blue sky clear.

We first encountered kilometres of fast ice from the Cook Ice Shelf... breath-taking...the Captain was right when he said that the airplane could be held level when all 290 passengers lunged to one side! After traversing this ice shelf to Hudson Bay we turned inland and flew south-east over the Trans Antarctic Mountain Range, taking in magnificent views of the dolomite of Horn Bluff and later the Organ Pipes.

The few hours that we spent zigzagging backwards and forwards over the Cook Ice Shelf and Scars Bluff between Hudson and Freshfields Bay before having to turn northward to Melbourne were indeed magical. What a delight to be able to point out to my family old tabular icebergs trapped in fast ice, pancake ice, well... all the different types of ice formations and to imagine the different types wildlife below. We were all shooting off images when it came our turn and ... very emotional...and sad to have to leave without touching down and being able to hear the silence, breathe in the cool crisp pure air or feel the penetrating sunshine and the crunch of ice beneath your feet....ah, next time.

More refreshments, video in service of the flight deck instruments by Captain Davis, a chat between Capt. Davis and the Captain of the MV Orion, more refreshments and in-flight videos, talking to the scientists and meeting

the descendants of Mawson, Mackay and David and viewing the flag on loan from the Canberra Science Academy that David, Mawson and Mackay had erected first at Cape Bernacchi and then at the SMP, commemorative coins and science equipment, kept us thoroughly entertained until we touched down at Tullamarine Jetport at 1946 hrs. Everyone on board will listed and recorded for posterity.

At this time Captain Davis announced that this flight had been his last flight as was it for two of the QANTAS crew, winding up long and enjoyable careers with QANTAS. We all clapped and showed our appreciation for the QANTAS, RSV and IPY members and Scientific Panel...well done! Alighting at 2010 we said good bye to the other passengers we had the pleasure of making acquaintance with and sharing in the wonder of the celebration of South Magnetic Pole 100th Anniversary and the ice and that special place ... Antarctica.



Top: Original BAE flag  
Above: Stamp showing Dip Compass  
Left: Centenary Flight route



# Runway Journal

**An account by Robert Harman, Surveyor for SKM, of his time preparing the Wilkins ice runway for the first Airbus A319 flight.**

The Antarctic airlink is now well and truly operational with the frequent flights and cargo arriving and departing Wilkins runway this summer bringing in scientists to carry out their experiments and taking back those who have already carried out their projects. So what happens behind the scenes? There's a lot of work preparing an ice runway sufficient to land an almost unmodified commercial Airbus A319 on it thousands of kilometres from the nearest airport.

The Wilkins team of ten, led by Jeff Hadley arrived at Casey on the 28th November 2008. After a smooth and almost glassy Southern Ocean crossing we completed our field training requirements and then were driven up to our new home in a specialised bus

called Prescilla that has been fitted for travel over snow and can still be used effectively in blizzard conditions (as we found out on Christmas Day.)

For most of our team, it was their first Antarctic experience with only Jeff Hadley, Mike Craven and myself having been south before. So rather than pushing dirt, our plant operators had to get used to the snow of which sometimes proved very difficult to even see what they were pushing due to poor surface definition.

As a surveyor, it was my role to provide runway threshold coordinates, survey the profile of the runway centreline and to place all the markers and navigation lights. The blue ice runway is a moving crevasse-free

glacier approximately 700 metres thick. Each year the prepared runway surface moves up to 12 metres and also rotates anticlockwise approximately  $0^{\circ} 02'$ . This shift can be modelled and predicted for future seasons.





**Story & Photos: Robert Harman**

There are many daily chores required at the Wilkins camp, especially with ten of us there all needing to eat, work and sleep. Some had to share their rooms, especially when visitors stayed the night from Casey and others made their homes in storage sheds. All the water comes from shovelling snow into large melting boxes which then had to be pumped into the storage tanks in the mess and ablutions buildings. The grey water then needed to be pumped out of those buildings once the tanks were full. After each night of moderate to strong winds, the camp needed to be cleared of accumulated snow. This was mostly done by Bulldozer but required shovelling around the buildings and hard to get at places. Often we would spend half a day clearing snow



and then find that we had to do it all over again the next day.

We had been told to expect the worse weather conditions at Wilkins but fortunately the first week was almost perfect. This however could not last and eventually we were forced indoors due to blizzards with winds gusting up to 74 knots limiting visibility to just a few metres. During the blizzard, half of the Wilkins team returned to Casey for Christmas and also took the opportunity to rest before returning to the runway where we would all change over to a night shift routine before the first proving flight. New Year's came as we were all working on the runway and few realised we were now in 2009. The Australian flag was ceremoniously raised early in the morning and it was at this time I realised that we would soon see the A319 and all of our hard work would be rewarded.

Additional work continued throughout the summer although as each passenger flight came and went, our

original team of ten had now reduced to seven and on the 17th February the A319's last scheduled flight for the summer departed Wilkins leaving only Mark Aldridge and Blair Smith to pack up the camp and return to Casey for their first winter.

**Until Wilkins was prepared, Skytrader's Airbus was used to ferry American expeditioners to Antarctica, in payback for the US Airforce team on the Hercules which evacuated the injured Australian Dwayne Rooke directly to Hobart.**





On December 6th last year I was invited aboard the MS Bremen for lunch with ship's doctor, Holger Dietz, who is a friend of Klaus Pedersen the provider of new Antarctic stamp covers for IB. The Bremen had docked in Hobart to resupply and make crew and passenger changeovers before an Antarctic cruise focussed on the Gondwana links between Australia, New Zealand, the Sub-Antarctic Islands and Antarctic continent.

Passing through security checks took some time, because the port security at the fence had a list of passengers and crew to check in and out, but not a visitors' list. That was held by the ship's security staff at the Princes Wharf shed, with a gap between and little cross-communication. Eventually, by shouting over the fence, I was able to attract attention of the correct security people and was allowed through to meet Dr Dietz. I then had to hand over my passport to security at the top of the gangplank, and who kept it until I left the ship.

Before we lunched in the ship's restaurant, Dr Dietz kindly showed me over some of the passenger's cabins, the hospital rooms, gymnasium, and Bremen Club, which included a bar, stage and dance floor. I was introduced to crew on the bridge and shown the Panorama Lounge below the bridge, used for lectures by naturalists and other scientists. I even met one who lived on Easter Island! We lunched in the restaurant and enjoyed 'Melbourne' lobster and a tasty dessert. In the afternoon I took Dr Dietz on a brief Polar Pathways tour to the Islands to Ice Exhibition at TMAG, Hadley's Hotel and St David's Cathedral. Then we went down to Salamanca Market amongst the bikers who filled the streets after the Christmas Toy Run.

The Bremen, originally named Frontier Spirit, was built in 1990 in Japan. It holds an E4 ice classification, the highest possible for passenger ships.

The name was changed to Bremen in 1993 and it is registered in the Bahamas. The ship is 111 metres long, with a beam of 17 metres and draft of 4.8m, capable of cruising at 15 knots. There are 12 motorised Zodiacs to take passengers ashore. Six passenger decks cater for up to 164 people, with cabins ranging from suites with a private balcony, to outer cabins with two portholes, and there is accommodation for 100 crew. Onboard language is German but most crew also speak English.

### Ice Cruise Idea

Is there a possibility of using lecture rooms aboard Antarctic cruise ships, while they are docked in Hobart, for members of the Tasmanian Antarctic community, not tour operators, to give brief talks or information sessions about Hobart's Antarctic links to crew and passengers remaining onboard? Not all crew change over, not all passengers depart, some arriving passengers have little time to go on arranged tours. The opportunity to speak to Tasmanians about their Antarctic involvement may be a welcome addition to passengers' knowledge of Antarctica.

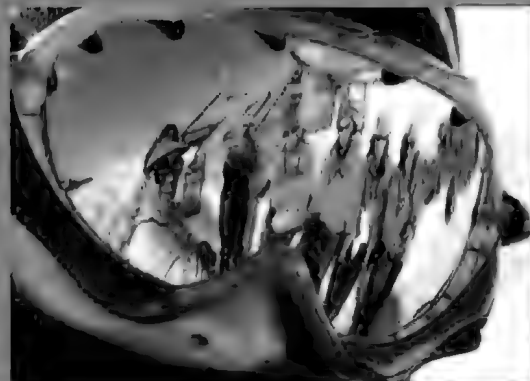


Top: Bremen in Commonwealth Bay  
Above: Lecture Room on Bremen  
Below: Zodiacs for passenger transport





# HAUNTING MAWSON'S HUT



The sense of awe I experienced when I first entered the Living Quarters of Mawson's 1911-1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition was overwhelming. I was standing in a place belonging to the history books, a place I had never expected to see yet alone have the privilege of working with one of the conservation teams dedicated to preserving it. The mass of ice suspended over the bunks contributed to the feeling of stepping back in time, but still it was not hard to imagine the 18 young men crowding out the space in 1912 – then a sense of it being too vast that second winter, in 1913, for the six men who had remained along with Sir Douglas Mawson after his ill fated sledging journey.

Since that time in October 2002 I have returned to visit Mawson's Huts at Cape Denison on eight occasions, strong katabatic winds preventing the our landing from the Orion expedition cruise ship on a ninth occasion. Orion markets these voyages as Mawson's Antarctica and the majority of the 90-100 passengers on board are living a long held dream to see for themselves "the home of the blizzard" inspired by the story of their hero Sir Douglas Mawson.

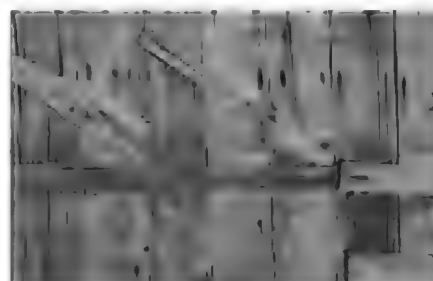
Of course for some the history of Antarctica is ancillary to the experience of visiting the Antarctic continent and experiencing the unique wildlife. As we approach the Antarctic continent, our historian Alasdair McGregor stimulates all, including those who have not been polar history buffs, to appreciate the very special nature of our journey. Not only has Alasdair written an acclaimed biography of one of the AAE party, photographer Frank Hurley, but he is able to draw on his own experiences of twice spending time at Cape Denison as a member of the conservation teams. The challenges facing Mawson and his men are further reinforced by the stories of Margie and Don McIntyre who, in 1995, became the first to

spend a year at Cape Denison since the AAE expedition departed over 89 years earlier.

In the intervening years, consecutive conservation teams had progressively removed more of the accumulated ice, revealing more of the workshop and living quarters. The impact of setting foot in side has not diminished. While I now know what to expect I still feel an overwhelming sense of awe, as if I am entering a sacred site. Now charged with the responsibility of guiding the passengers through the hut, just three at a time, I ensure they first experience the interior in silence. While my torch exposes the remote corners, revealing the initials etched on the bunks of the long gone occupants, a pile of now tattered books, old jars, even remnants of sledging clothing, I watch for their reaction. I have witnessed all range of emotions from silent tears to the pervading obsession of capturing the moment on camera. Yet there is little doubt that all have been greatly moved by the experience, be they 14 years old or in their 80's.

The numbers of tourists visiting Mawson's Huts, while still only in the

hundreds, is increasing. Each, I trust, returns as ambassadors and supporters of the conservation of the huts. Fundraising auctions conducted on each of our three Orion voyages this past summer raised close to \$50,000. Visit [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au) for further information.



Above: Western Wall  
Below: Hyde Parke Corner  
Bottom: Late Evening, 19 January  
Photos & Text Courtesy Diana Patterson



# Polar Publications



## Emperor of the North

Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company

By James Raffan.  
Published by Harper Collins.  
Price: \$34.95

Recounts how the Company influenced the development of Canada as a nation, as well as the life of its founder, who ran the company for 40 years.

## Race to the Polar Sea

The Heroic Adventures of Elisha Kent Kane

By Ken McGoogan  
Published by Harper Collins Canada  
Price: \$28.00.

Kane's adventure began when he sailed to search for Sir John Franklin's lost expedition in the 1850s. He spent two years trapped in the ice, but also enjoyed a secret love affair with a young Canadian spiritualist, before managing to return to his Philadelphia family.

## The Last Whale

By Chris Pash  
Published by Fremantle Press.  
Price: \$29.95

Describes Project Jonah, a group of Australians committed to ending whaling in the 1970s and their achievements working with Jean-Paul Fortom-Gouin and other international activists.

## Thule Explorer

Kayaking North of 77 Degrees

By Rosemary Clewes.  
Published by Hidden Book Express.  
Price: \$16.95.

Describes the author's spiritual response to far northern landscapes.

## Marine Protected Areas

Available from the Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

A comprehensive overview of Australia's MPAs, with maps, images and case studies aimed to enhance the readers' understanding of the oceans and means of protecting the existing marine environment.

## The Old Way North

Following the Oberholtzer-Magee Expedition

By David Pelly  
Published by Borealis Books  
Price: \$35.00

Describes the 1912, five-month canoe expedition of a future conservationist and his guide through unmapped waters of the Arctic, introducing them to the stories of fur traders, missionaries and Inuits.

## The Littlest Sled Dog

By Michael Kusugak and Vlayana Krykorka.  
Published by Orca Book Publishers.  
Price: \$19.95

A children's book about a little dog that dreams of becoming a fierce sled dog, but changes her mind when coming face-to-face with real sled dogs.

## Arctic Fox

Life at the Top of the World

By Garry Hamilton, Norbert Rosing  
Published by Firefly Books  
Price: \$45.00.

Traces the history and life of the Arctic Fox, including its relationship with polar bears and its efforts to survive.

## Ice

By Louis Nowra  
Published by Allen & Unwin  
Price: \$32.95

A novel set in the late 19th century about an iceberg towed from Antarctica to Sydney Harbour. The main character, Malcolm McEacharn, is also the subject of a 21st century biography and the novel switches between colonial and current perspectives.

# Antarctic Spirit



Yacht Convergence is continuing to develop and edge closer to launching, and although the economic climate is affecting this fledgling business, like many other businesses, owner Scott Laughlin is pushing on to meet client demands.

ing for easy ventilation and to be fully opened for passing long items in and out of the yacht. The aft windows will also give a feel of openness from the cockpit to the saloon.

- There has also been a lot of

developing the ways and means of achieving the best results for the completion of the interior fit-out.

- The ceramic insulation has been supplied from Deltacoat and this specialised insulation product is applied up to 3mm thick, apparently replacing the spray foam insulation of 75mm that Scott was originally going to use throughout the yacht. It is also guaranteed to have zero condensation which I'm sure will be an asset when the yacht is sailing in near freezing conditions.

When asked if Scott could see an appreciable change to the yacht he just laughed and said "not till all the aluminum fabrication has been completed, then all the deck and interior hardware can be fitted...then she will start to look like a real expedition yacht."

We wish Scott all the best with his endeavour and we will keep you updated in following issues. Anyone interested in investing in this yacht, specially designed to suit Sub-Antarctic voyages, contact Scott on <http://ant-arcticspirit.com>

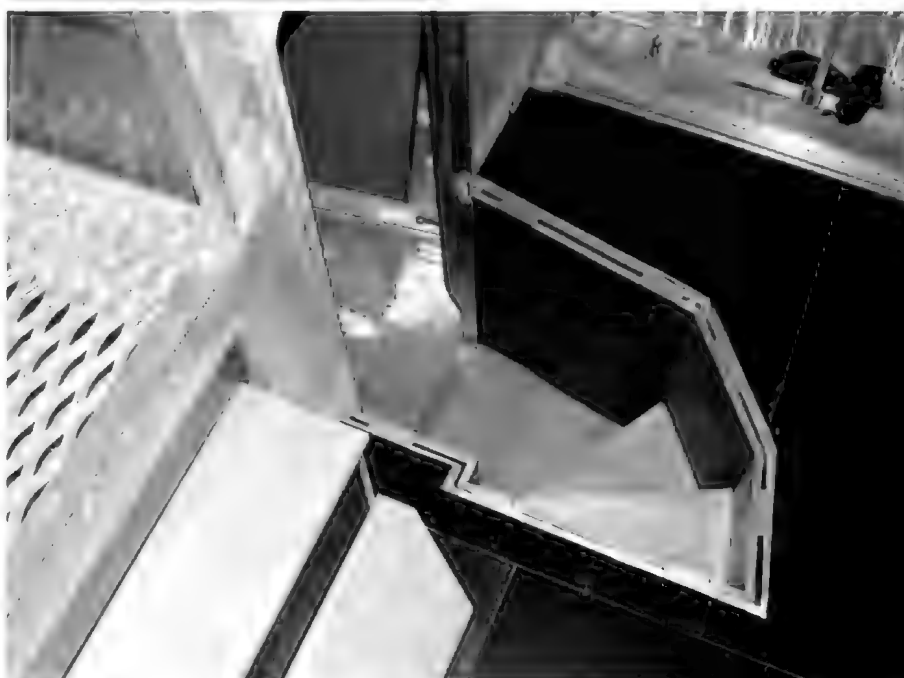


Scott will be en route to Antarctica when this issue of Ice Breaker goes to print, after spending the majority of his leave with his two children enjoying the Tassie summer and it's abundance of outdoor activities.

Before Scott departed Hobart as Ship's Master of Aurora Australis on Voyage 5, I caught up with him to discuss his project, as it holds particular interest within the Tasmanian Antarctic community. The following items have now been added to Convergence:

- The keel has now been installed in the yacht and this allows for a dry run to confirm hydraulics and tolerances for the keel head box support plates that take the lateral forces of the swing keel when sailing.
- The aft windows have been supplied by Titane Windows. These windows open in two planes allow-

Information and photos courtesy Scott Laughlin





# Polar Calendar

5	March	2009	Reception for French expeditioners. Prince of Wales Hotel. 4.30 pm. Hobart, Tasmania
6	March	2009	Tasmanian Polar Network meeting. 11.00am-1.00pm CCAMLR Headquarters, Macquarie St, Hobart, Tasmania
15-20	March	2009	Gordon Research Conference in Polar Marine Science. Tuscany, Italy. Contact David Thomas, oss102Abangor.ac.uk
19-30	March	2009	First Antarctic conference on Gondwanan Palaeontology. Held on board the 'Polar Pioneer' as it sails around the Antarctic Peninsula visiting various fossil locations. Hosted by Aurora Expeditions in association with The University of Queensland. Details: <a href="http://www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs.index.html?page=79794">www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs.index.html?page=79794</a>
23-24	March	2009	Antarctic Sea Ice Workshop. Il Ciocco, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy. Contact <a href="mailto:sackley@pol.net">sackley@pol.net</a> and <a href="mailto:Klaus.Meiners@acecrc.org.au">Klaus.Meiners@acecrc.org.au</a>
23-28	March	2009	Arctic Science Summit Week. Bergen, Norway.
28	March	2009	Earth Hour 8.30-9.30 pm. Contact <a href="http://www.earthhour.org">www.earthhour.org</a>
1-3	April	2009	4th Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica - Legacy of IPY to the Tropics. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
6-11	April	2009	International School of Space Science Course: Solar terrestrial physics from the polar regions. L'Aquila, Italy
6-17	April	2009	XXXII ATCM - CEP XII. Baltimore, Maryland USA.
20-24	April	2009	Workshop on Measuring Climate Change Impacts in the Southern Ocean. CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Tasmania
26-27	April	2009	2nd International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic: Environmental change in the Sub-Antarctic. CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Tasmania. Details <a href="http://www.sub-antarctic.org">www.sub-antarctic.org</a>
27 1	April May	2009- 2009	ACAP Third session of the Meeting of the Parties. Bergen, Norway
18-21	May	2009	American Meteorological Society's 10th Polar Conference on Meteorology and Oceanography. Madison, Wisconsin, USA
5	June	2009	TPN meeting. Hobart, Tasmania (to be confirmed)
19-28	June	2009	Tasmania's Antarctic Midwinter Festival Hobart, Tasmania. For details see <a href="http://www.antarctic-tasmania.info">www.antarctic-tasmania.info</a>
19	June	2009	Melbourne Midwinter Dinner
27	June	2009	Sydney Midwinter Dinner
27	June	2009	Hobart's Midwinter Dinner
27-31	June	2009	Symposium on Glaciology in the International Polar Year. Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne. UK
11-16	July	2009	14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health. Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada
14	July	2009	ANARE General Meeting
26-31	July	2009	Xth SCAR International Biology Symposium. Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
27-31	July	2009	Glaciology in the IPY. Newcastle, UK. Contact <a href="mailto:john.woodward@unn.ac.uk">john.woodward@unn.ac.uk</a>
7-11	September	2009	First Antarctic Climate Evolution symposium. Granada, Spain. Contact <a href="mailto:cescutia@ugr.es">cescutia@ugr.es</a>
30 3	November December	2009- 2009	Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-policy Interactions in International Governance. Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC, USA. Taking place during the 50th Anniversary of the initial signatures to the Treaty 91 December 1959). For details, contact Paul Berkman: <a href="mailto:berkman@bren.ucsb.edu">berkman@bren.ucsb.edu</a>

Further details available at [www.scar.org/events/](http://www.scar.org/events/)





# Polar News

## Tasmanian Antarctic Groups

ANARE Club - Tasmanian Branch  
<http://anaretas.webhop.org> and Ingrid McGaughey - [anare.tasmania@yahoo.com.au](mailto:anare.tasmania@yahoo.com.au)

Antarctic Family and Friends Association Australia - Tasmanian branch. Everyone is welcome to join this group, which meets at Leo's Coffee Shop, Eastlands Shopping Centre, Rosny Park, every third Thursday of the month. Contact Heather on (03) 6272 3096 or Margaret (03) 6231 0332 for further details

## Recent Antarctic Stamps

A special commemorative cover and postmark for the 2008-9 Mawson's Huts Foundation Conservation expedition Cape Denison Antarctica is now available. Marking the 97th anniversary of Sir Douglas Mawson's arrival at Cape Denison, Australia Post has produced a limited edition of 500, with a signed insert. A designated Foundation member will cancel covers on 8 January 2009, and a limited number also cancelled and serviced with a French Antarctic Territory stamp aboard L'Astrolabe. To order, see [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au) or [www.petespolarplace.com](http://www.petespolarplace.com).

Limited releases of special commemorative International Polar Year and Centenary South Magnetic Pole Flight items are also available, including Australian and New Zealand First Day Covers and coins. Contact the Royal Society of Victoria at <http://www.sciencevictoria.org.au> or Australia Post. On March 4, 2009, new stamps about AAT Poles and Glaciers will also be available.

## New staff at the AAD

- Director: Lyn Maddock replacing Tony Press. Previously, experience in the areas of communication and resources, regulatory affairs, public sector management and transport.
- Chief Scientist: John Gunn replaces Michael Stoddart. Previously,

Deputy Chief, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research.

- Aviation Manager: Steven Daw replaces Charlton Clark. Previously, Director of Australian Customs Service and Border Protection Command.

## Macquarie Island News

The first edition of the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project (MIPEP) newsletter was produced in November 2008, and 3 editions a year will be produced for the duration of the project. The first field team and dog-training team, currently training 11 dogs, will start work on Macquarie Island in 2010. The aim is to eradicate rats and mice by aerial baiting, followed up by using dogs to locate rabbits not affected by the baiting. Contact MIPEP at (03) 6233 0449 or email [mieradication@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:mieradication@parks.tas.gov.au).

## Stellar Year

This year is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) and Shevill Mathers, a Hobart-based astronomer, says Tasmanian is the best state for witnessing the aurora australis. For more information about the IYA, see [www.astronomy2009.org.au](http://www.astronomy2009.org.au).

## Antarctic airport

As part of bi-centennial celebrations in 2010, Chile is planning to build an independent airport at Punta Arenas, exclusively for Antarctic flights. Nine million US Dollars will be spent on an area of 1,280 metres, catering for four different aircraft, better access, larger parking lots and possibly a second control tower. Improved links with Antarctica will provide a more permanent logistics backup, particularly for emergencies such as cruise ships sinking. Flights to Antarctica are concentrated between December and March each year.

## Shipping activities

Korea's new ice breaker ARAON has been launched. Christchurch NZ will be

its antarctic resupply port.

Greg Mortimer of Aurora Expeditions is purchasing the Marina Svetaeva, after having leased this and the Polar Pioneer from Russia for previous Antarctic voyages

The Sea Shepherd Conservation society's anti-whaling ship 'Steve Irwin' visited Hobart this summer to refuel before continuing to disrupt the Japanese plans to kill up to 1000 whales for 'lethal research' purposes.

## Circumpolar voyage

British adventurer Oliver Hicks has begun his round-the-world voyage in a fibreglass boat called Flying Carrot. He prepared for the voyage at Franklin, south of Hobart and departed from Cockle Creek on Recherche Bay in January. He aims to row about 9 hours a day south of New Zealand, across the Pacific Ocean, through the Drake Passage past Cape Horn and then into the Southern Ocean. His boat has a cabin for electronic equipment and sleeping, plus two other sections for storage and meal preparation. To date, Oliver has been experiencing difficulties trying to reach southwestern New Zealand because of winds blowing his boat backwards.

## Gardens Redevelopment

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is preparing a new draft plan, which includes relocation and expansion of the Sub-Antarctic Plant House. The House would be moved to Pavilion Point and may include penguins as well as more flora and fauna such as marine invertebrates and insects. Public comment is being sought before the master plan is completed in March. Contact [www.rtbg.tas.gov.au](http://www.rtbg.tas.gov.au) for further details.

## Environmental Space Monitor

Japan fired the first greenhouse-gas monitoring satellite into space in January 2009.



# Shipping & Air Calendar

5	March	2009	L'Astrolabe		Arrives Hobart. Off hire
5	March	2009	MV Kaharoa	VT10	Macquarie Island
6	March	2009	Aurora Australis	V5	Davis Station
6-23	March	2009	MV Kaharoa	VT10	Marine Science
10	March	2009	Amderma	V4	Arrives Hobart. Off hire
19-25	March	2009	Aurora Australis	V5	Macquarie Island
28	March	2009	Aurora Australis	V5	Arrives Hobart. Off hire
11	April	2009	MV Kaharoa	VT10	Arrives Wellington, NZ
2009-2010 Season					
20	October	2009	Aurora Australis	V1	Departs Hobart for Davis Station
22	October	2009	Aurora Australis	V1	Marine science
25-29	October	2009	Aurora Australis	V1	Macquarie Island
4-5	October	2009	Aurora Australis	V1	Marine Science
5-8	October	2009	Aurora Australis	V1	Casey Station

Tasports shipping link is [www.tasports.com.au/port\\_services/arrivalshobart.htm](http://www.tasports.com.au/port_services/arrivalshobart.htm)



Among the passengers on the Marina Svetaeva (below) were Mike Bingham from the Mercury, Diana Patterson (Page 17) and Julia Butler, a granddaughter of the Meteorologist Cecil Madigan.

Recently, a cache of food was discovered at Madigan's Nunatak, where it had been buried nearly a century ago by Madigan himself.

The Tasmanian Ports Corporation, through the Port of Hobart, plays a vital role in fostering the endeavours of the world's Southern Ocean and Antarctic operators.

The port is a conveniently located, well-served, cost-effective and strategically important base for Antarctic, sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean programs.

It provides important services for both international and regional vessel operators and crew to access fuel, provisions, stevedoring, maintenance, accommodation and recreational services.

Tasports, a member of the Tasmanian Polar Network, welcomes all enquiries regarding its services for Antarctic and Southern Ocean activities.

## Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd

48 Formby Road, Devonport

Telephone +61 3 6421 4911

Facsimile +61 3 6421 4988

[www.tasports.com.au](http://www.tasports.com.au)





## Metocean Services International

Providers of Meteorological and Oceanographic Services

In  
Any Environment

Oceanographic & Meteorological Data Collection  
Ice Profiling & Under Ice Data Collection  
Project Management  
Data Processing & Analysis  
Desktop Studies  
Software & Database Development & Housing  
Weather Forecasting  
Scientific Equipment Sales

Metocean Services International  
16 Gregory St, Sandy Bay  
Tasmania 7005, Australia  
Tel. +61 3 62240788

Metocean Services International  
1 Gabriel Place, Gabriel Road  
Cape Town 7800 South Africa  
Tel. +27 21 7975554

[www.metoceanservices.com](http://www.metoceanservices.com)



Improving the  
Living Environment!

Veolia specialises  
in managing  
Antarctic  
waste

1300 13 42 42

Accredited to Quality ISO9001, Safety AS4801 & Environment ISO14001



## ASTROLABE BOOKSELLERS



*Fine, Old & Rare Books*

Specialising in Tasmaniana  
& Antarctica

First floor, 81 Salamanca Place, Hobart  
Phone /Fax: (03) 6223 8644  
e-mail: [books@astrolabebooks.com.au](mailto:books@astrolabebooks.com.au)  
[www.astrolabebooks.com.au](http://www.astrolabebooks.com.au)



## Metocean Services International

Exclusive Australian Agents for RBR Ltd  
"Instruments for Rugged Environments"

- CTDs
- Tide Gauges
- Wave Gauges
- Thermistor Chains
- Multi-channel Data Loggers

Small Size  
Low Power  
High Accuracy  
Lifetime Warranty

Metocean Services International  
16 Gregory St, Sandy Bay  
Tasmania 7005, Australia  
Tel. +61 3 62240788

[stefan@metoceanservices.com](mailto:stefan@metoceanservices.com)  
[www.metoceanservices.com](http://www.metoceanservices.com)

Also in South Africa

航空  
PAR AVION

# 中国第二十五次南极考察纪念

The 25th Chinese National Antarctic Research Expedition



1  
附捐



雪龍  
XUE LONG



中国人民抗日战争暨  
世界反法西斯战争胜利六十周年



ICE BREAKER  
240 Watsons Road  
Kettering, Tas. 7155  
AUSTRALIA

## 中国第25次南极考察



20# 中国人民邮政



20# 中国人民邮政



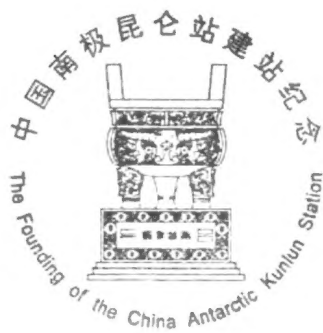
20# 中国人民邮政



20# 中国人民邮政



20# 中国人民邮政



20# 中国人民邮政

Mr. Guo Zhengtian 郭正田  
北京市五棵松路 20 号  
外文局宿舍 7-5-510  
100097 Beijing, VR. China